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GENERAL NOTES.

Ephemeris of Halley's Comet.—

(Continued from preceding number.)

Berlin Time.	α			δ	
1910 March 6.1	0^h	30^m	8^s	$+7°$	$57'$
11.1	0	26	23	8	0
16.1	0	22	34	8	2
21.1	0	18	30	8	4
26.1	0	14	12	8	5
31.1	0	9	38	8	4
April 5.1	0	4	50	8	1

Greenwich Noon.	α			δ	
April 4	0^h	5^m	38^s	$+8°$	$1'$
8	0	1	43	7	58
12	23	57	58	7	53
16	23	54	24	7	49
20	23	51	44	7	46
24	23	50	20	7	47
28	23	50	53	7	56
May 2	23	54	32	8	18
6	0	3	6	9	5
10	0	21	35	10	30
11	0	29	39	11	2
12	0	38	32	11	41
13	0	50	12	12	29
14	1	5	47	13	27
15	1	24	47	14	36
16	1	49	52	15	59
17	2	23	4	17	29
18	3	7	19	18	51
19	4	3	11	19	43
20	5	3	23	19	8
21	6	9	54	17	40
22	7	3	4	15	14
23	7	44	48	12	40
24	8	18	20	10	24
25	8	40	7	8	31
26	8	58	52	6	59
27	9	13	8	5	45
28	9	24	36	4	45
29	9	33	48	3	50
30	9	41	23	+3	15

The first portion of the ephemeris is taken from *The Observatory* for December, 1909, and is based on April 19.67, 1910, as the time of perihelion; the second portion is from an ephemeris by Dr. SMART given in the same publication for November, 1909, and is based on April 19.65, 1910, as the time of perihelion passage.

Notes from "Science."—The prize of the Berlin Astronomical Society for the calculations of the path of Halley's Comet has been awarded to Messrs. COWELL and CROMMELIN.

The Paris Academy of Sciences has awarded the Pontécoulant prize to Professor E. W. BROWN for his work on the motion of the Moon.

The House of Representatives has passed a resolution ordering the disposal of certain government publications. A list of these publications was printed in *Science* for January 28th, and anyone desiring any of these may obtain them through the member of Congress from the district in which he resides. The publications of an astronomical nature are as follows: Astronomical Papers of the American Ephemeris, Vols. 5 and 6; Washington Astronomical Observations, 1881 to 1890; Coast Survey Reports, 1872, 1886 to 1897-8, 1906; Nautical Almanac, 1885 to 1909.

The same number of *Science* contains a report of the meeting, in Boston during convocation week, of Section A of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Two papers on mathematical subjects and nineteen on astronomical subjects were presented before the meeting and the full titles are printed in the number of *Science* referred to.

The Naval Observatory.—In his annual message to Congress President Taft urged the appointment of a civilian astronomer to be director of the Naval Observatory at Washington, and pointed out the absurdity of the present arrangement, under which an officer of the navy, who usually has only an elementary knowledge of astronomy, has the direction of the affairs of the observatory. Changes are frequently made, so that by the time an officer begins to be familiar with his duties he is sent off to sea again.

Bills have been introduced into both houses of Congress in accordance with President Taft's recommendations, and it is earnestly desired by astronomers and other scientific men of the country that the proposed change be brought about.

This is not the first time by any means that efforts of this kind have been made, but the bills have always been killed heretofore, chiefly through the influence of the navy men. They naturally oppose any legislation which has for its object the taking away of something which they now have, and it is presumed that they will present a united opposition to the present legislation. The astronomers of the country must make a determined effort in favor of the bills, and it is suggested that the members of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific can help by writing to their Representatives and Senators, calling attention to the desirability of the proposed legislation. The one and all sufficient reason why this change in the directorship of the observatory is desired is, simply, that the scientific efficiency of the institution may be increased.

S. D. T.

Eclipse of the Sun.—No government expedition will, Reuter's Agency is informed, be dispatched from this country to observe the eclipse of the Sun, owing to the unfavorable conditions and the remoteness of the region in which it will be visible. The eclipse will take place on May 8th, and will be visible only in Tasmania. The Sun's altitude being only eight degrees, and the totality (the period of which is $3\frac{1}{2}^{m}$) occurring shortly before sunset, the chances of obtaining good observations are doubtful. The work of officially observing the eclipse will be left to Australian observers.

The joint committee of the Royal Society and the Royal Astronomical Society have been in communication with the observatory at Melbourne and are assisting with instruments, etc. An eclipse committee has been formed to organize expeditions to observe in Tasmania. The Australian expeditions will probably go to Port Davey, the best available port, which is two days' journey from Melbourne and about fourteen hours from Hobart. The neighborhood from which the eclipse will be observed is generally hilly and difficult of access by land or sea. It has been arranged that Mr. BARACCHI (director of Melbourne Observatory), Mr. J. M. BALDWIN (chief assistant), and Mr. C. J. MERFIELD will form the observing contingent from Melbourne Observatory.—*London Standard.*

Additions to Library.—The Library Committee announces the purchase of the following named books, which have been added to the library:—

BALL—Mathematical Recreations and Essays.
BERRY—History of Astronomy.
CHAMBERS—Story of the Comets.
CLERKE—History of Astronomy during the Nineteenth Century.
CLERKE—Problems in Astrophysics.
DOLMAGE—Astronomy of Today.
GIBSON—Scientific Ideas of Today.
NEWCOMB—Reminiscences of an Astronomer.
NEWCOMB—Sidelights on Astronomy.
POOR—The Solar System.
WALLACE—Man's Place in the Universe.
YOUNG—Manual of Astronomy.

Changes in the Mounting of the Crossley Reflector.—The Crossley reflector was dismounted on January 20th and the bearings of the declination and polar axes taken down to San Jose to be bored out for the new roll systems. The new roller bearings are of the anti-friction type installed with such good results in the Mills reflector at Santiago, Chile, in 1906.[1] In addition to the roller system, the declination axis is provided with ball thrust rings, and the weights, levers, and friction wheels have been removed from the polar axis, being no longer necessary. Only three or four pounds is necessary to move the telescope in declination and about ten pounds in the right ascension component; the total weight of the moving parts is about six tons.

A new finder has been added to the instrument, having a focal length of seventeen feet, seven and a half inches, making it possible to guide directly on a comet or other rapidly moving object; the slow motion in declination has been replaced with a new one of convenient access from either the eye end or the lower end of the telescope.

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[1] *Publication A. S. P.*, October, 1907.

Owing to delays in the boring out of the large bearings, the remounting was not completed till the night of January 30th.

HEBER D. CURTIS.

The unusual delay in the appearance of the present number of the *Publications* is due chiefly to the loss of some of the proofs in the mail.